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ASHBOURNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1953.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health

W.J. MORRISSEY M.B.,B.ch. D.P.H. (as from 21.11.53)

H.H. Hollick L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (to 8.11.53)

Senior Sanitary Inspector

H. Litchfield, A.R.San.I. M.S.I.A.

District Sanitary Inspectors

D.J. Cowen, C.S.I.B.

T.R. Sambrook, C.S.I.B.

Compton Offices,
ASHBOURNE.

30th August, 1954.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashbourne Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances and vital statistics for your district during 1953.

The vital statistics contained in this report indicate that the general health of the district has been maintained at a satisfactory level.

The general death rate at 10.1 and the infant mortality rate at 16.4 compare favourably with the rates of 11.4 and 26.8 for England and Wales. The birth rate at 15.5 shows a decrease of 0.8 as compared with 1952.

Measles and Whooping Cough constitute the bulk of the infectious disease returns. Removal to hospital was only required in 6 cases of infectious disease.

The number of children who received primary diphtheria immunisation was 156 as compared with 120 in 1952. This slight increase is pleasing, but a great many parents are still failing to give their children this essential protection.

I wish to pay tribute to Dr. H. Hollick my predecessor who died in November 1953. He served the district well for many years both in his capacity as Medical Officer of Health and in a large private practice.

It is a great pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and to the Clerk and other Officers.

I have the honour to be, Lady & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

W.J. MORRISSEY.
M.B.,D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	...	86,188
Population (Census 1951)	...	12,020
Population (estimated by Registrar General)		11,700
	30th June, 1953.	
No. of inhabited houses	...	3,350
Rateable Value	...	48,180
Product of penny rate	...	£ 198

The primary industry of the District is Dairy Farming. Milk is collected to the various wholesale dairies, heat treated and sent out to the surrounding towns. In addition, there are two cheese factories.

In the North of the area, which is situated on the carboniferous limestone rock, there are several large quarries which supply lump limestone for road making and sugar beet refining, tarred limestone for roads, limestone dust for agriculture and industry.

Large deposits of sand and gravel are worked for the supply of concrete aggregate in the Midland Towns.

There are also deposits of special silica sand which are made into very high temperature furnace linings at two works in the district.

In the centre of the district, there is a tape mill, and a large proportion of female labour finds employment in adjacent districts in the silk and nylon industry.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1953.

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	76	99	175
Illegitimate	2	6	8
	78	105	183

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population 15.7

Still Births

Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	3	1	4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population = 0.33
 " " " " " (total births = 21.3
 live & still)

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	61	57	118

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population = 10.08
 Natural Increase of Population (excess = 65
 of births over deaths)

DEATHS (CONTINUED)

By applying the areacomparability factor.

Adjusted	Birth Rate	=	18.37
"	Death Rate	=	10.28
England & Wales	Birth Rate	=	15.5
"	" Death Rate	=	11.4

<u>Infant Mortality</u>					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths of	Infants	under	1 year	...	2	1
"	"	"	" 4 weeks	...	2	1
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births					=	16.4
England and Wales Rate					=	26.8

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SELECTED CAUSES

	<u>Number of Deaths</u>		
	Males	Females	Total
Heart Diseases	21	17	38
Vascular disorders of nervous systems	6	10	16
Cancer	8	9	17
Violence	6	3	9
Bronchitis	3	3	6
Influenza	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Pneumonia	-	3	3
Infectious diseases	-	-	-

The following table compares various Rates in your area with those of England and Wales and selected groups of towns :-

Birth rates, Death rates and Analysis of Mortality in the year 1953. England and Wales - 160 Boroughs and Great Towns and 160 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns).

	Rate per 1,000 Population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 Live Births		
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Diphtheria	Influenza	Pneumonia	Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	Smallpox	Tuberculosis	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 yrs)	Total Deaths (under 1 yr.)
England and Wales	15.5	0.35	11.4	0.00	0.16	0.55	0.01	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.01	1.1	26.8
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	17.0	0.43	12.2	0.00	0.15	0.59	0.01	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.01	1.3	30.8
160 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1951)	15.7	0.34	11.3	0.00	0.17	0.52	0.01	0.00	0.19	-	0.00	0.9	24.3
London Administrative County	17.5	0.38	12.5	-	0.15	0.64	0.01	-	0.24	-	0.00	1.1	24.8
Ashbourne R.D.C.	15.7	0.33	10.08	-	-	0.25	-	-	0.17	-	-	-	16.40

Prevalance of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The total number of infectious and notifiable diseases notified during the year was 303 as compared with 113.

The number of notifications of each disease was as follows :-

	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Removed to Hospital</u>
Measles	175	Nil
Whooping Cough	97	Nil
Respiratory Tuberculosis	6	3
Other Tuberculosis	4	2
Scarlet Fever	7	6
Pneumonia	8	Nil
Erysipelas	5	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil
TOTALS	303	11

There were no notifications of Poliomyelitis, Meningococcal Infection, Typhoid or Para-Typhoid, Food Poisoning, Dysentery, Diphtheria or Smallpox.

Cases of Notifiable Disease at varying ages during 1953.

Disease	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	60-	Total
Measles	1	17	16	18	24	87	11	1	-	-	-	-	175
Whooping Cough	6	8	11	11	13	40	7	-	1	-	-	-	97
Respiratory T.B.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	1	6
Other T.B.	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	4
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	4	1	8
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	7	26	27	29	39	134	19	2	5	3	6	6	303

Tuberculosis

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations) relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 which provides for the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1953.

These Regulations came into operation on 1st April, 1953.

In their general substance and form, the new regulations are similar to the old in that they require notification of malaria, dysentery, acute primary pneumonia and acute influenzal pneumonia and provide for preventive steps to be taken against the spread of certain diseases specified in the Fourth Schedule to the regulations.

The provisions about action to be taken by local authorities and Medical Officers of Health against the risk of food poisoning applied under the old regulations to enteric fever and dysentery. They now apply to typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever or other salmonella infections, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning.

Under the 1927 regulations, the steps prescribed could only be taken in relation to a person suffering from the disease in question and for the purpose of preventing such a person from continuing to work in an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink. The new regulations go further. They provide for action to be taken, not only as regards a person suffering from the disease in question, but also a person shown to be a carrier of the disease. A person in either class may now be prevented from continuing to work in an occupation connected with food and drink and also from entering such an occupation. Under the 1927 regulations, again, the prescribed steps concerned could not be taken until the Medical Officer of Health had reported the case concerned to the local authority. In the new regulations, while the same general principle is maintained (because action may involve the local authority in paying compensation under Section 278(1) of the Public Health Act, 1936), there is provision to enable a local authority to give its Medical Officer of Health such authorisation as will permit him to take the prescribed action in a particular case without waiting to report it - though he is required to report it at the earliest opportunity - if in his judgment this action needs to be taken as a matter of immediate urgency to prevent the spread of infection.

The Ashbourne Rural District Council, on 7th November, 1953, authorised the Medical Officer of Health to issue notices in accordance with Part II and III of the Fourth Schedule of these Regulations in relation to any particular case if, in his judgment, it is immediately and urgently necessary for him to do so for the purpose of preventing the spread of infection.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

The County Medical Officer of Health has forwarded the following summary of the results of the County Bacteriologist's examinations (and carried out in association with the Medical Research Council) made of various samples submitted from this area during 1953.

	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>
<u>Serological Examinations</u>	.	
Enteric Group of Organisms	-	4
Brucella Abortus	-	1
Paul-Bunnell Test for Glandular Fever	-	4
<u>Culture Examinations</u>		
Enteric, dystentery and food poisoning group of organisms	-	-
C.diphtheria	-	2
Haemolytic Streptococci	1	3

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS (CONTD)

	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>
<u>Microscopical Examinations</u>	.	
Vincent's Angina Organisms	-	2
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	-	6
<u>Clinical Specimens</u>	16	1
<u>Milk Examinations</u>	.	
Tubercle Bacilli, Biological Test	-	22
Methylene Blue Test	5	6
Phosphate Test	-	11
Coliform Test	3	-
<u>Water Examinations</u>	25	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	50	74
	<hr/>	<hr/>

xPos. = Unsatisfactory.

Neg. = Satisfactory.

The County Analyst informed me that 26 samples were taken under the Act and all proved on analysis to be genuine.

During the year the analytical work in his department disclosed a widespread distribution of French Moroccan Sardines packed in Oil and Tomato which were seriously contaminated with tin. This led to the need for examination of stocks at many premises, and the collaboration of your Councils with the County Sampling Officer in this work, which resulted in the condemnation of faulty stock, led to the removal from the market of food-which undoubtedly could be classed as a potential danger to health.

National Health Service Act 1946

Immunisation against Diphtheria

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following information in respect of children immunised during the year. (Primary immunisation only).

Under								
1yr.	1yr.	2yrs.	3yrs.	4yrs.	5-9yrs.	10-14yrs.	Total	
3	110	19	4	9	11	-	156	

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No case arose during the year requiring action under Section 47 of this Act.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

With the exception of some small details, the extension of water mains to Hulland Ward - Cross o'th'Hands, Biggin and Kirk Ireton has been completed and put into service: small extensions to service proposed housing sites at Pike Hall, Alkinton, Parwich, have been completed and the Darley Moor Airfield mains have been connected to the Council's mains near Collycroft, Clifton. The whole of this work has been carried out by contract.

At Cubley, preparation has been made to receive the water softening plant, also the pumps are being re-built.

Water main servicing has kept pace with demand, and during the year 222 new connections have been made to the main by your own workmen, and these serve the following :-

Private houses	137
Farms	62
Field troughs	29
Other establishments	10

In addition, 56 meters have been fixed.

At the present time, your water mains supply :-

Private houses	1615
Farms	431
Field troughs not included in Farm supplies	156
Schools	11
Other large establishments	19

of these supplies 484 are metered.

The demand for water has continued to increase, and at the end of the year the position was as follows :-

<u>Sturston No.1.</u>	used as standbye to Sturston No.2. pump Total capacity 70,000 gallons per day.
<u>Sturston No.2.</u>	Running continuously to full capacity Total output 125,000 gallons per day.
<u>Yeldersley</u>	- One pump running six days per week and delivering 200,000 gallons per day.
<u>Sheen</u>	- One pump running about 5 hours per day and delivering about 30,000 gallons per day. The water is heavily charged with iron and free carbonic acid gas causing nuisance in mains and to the services.
<u>Cubley</u>	- A temporary submersible motor pump has been in use during the year and is pumping on the average 100,000 gallons per day.
<u>Kirk Ireton</u>	- The small pump is supplying about 5,000 gallons per day.

The total amount being pumped daily is 430,000 gallons. Including water for farm and trade purposes, it is estimated that the consumption is about 50 gallons per head of the population supplied.

Water Supplies (Contd)

A scheme has been prepared in outline for increasing the present resources of supply from additional boreholes, also a new trunk main and reservoirs to relieve certain mains which are overloaded.

The first part of the scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local government for approval.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year, a new sewage disposal works has been built at Parwich and the whole of the village has been re-sewered. The drain connections from the houses to the old stone sewers have been transferred to the new system.

Plans have been prepared and the scheme submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for a new works at Brailsford and new main sewers to the same.

Negotiations are in hand to take over the sewage disposal works at Osmaston used by the R.A.F. in order that Osmaston village can be sewered and the sewage treated in the existing works.

The works lately used by the R.A.F. at Darley Moor have been taken over, modified to suit the smaller flow and are now in use for the Darley Moor Temporary housing site.

Plans are in course of preparation for schemes at Doveridge (new works only) Fenny Bentley, Kniveton, Yeaveley and Hartington.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced during the year with small septic tank installations where it has been found that the effect of detergents has been to stop septic action taking place. These tanks are now regularly having to be emptied.

P blic Cleansing

Refuse Collection and disposal service has now been extended to the whole of the District where a fortnightly collection is made by two Refuse wagons.

The second refuse wagon was put into service on the 2nd April and this has enabled the men to keep well on top of their work. The effectiveness of the service may perhaps be best measured by the infrequency of the complaints now received.

During the year the routes were re-organised in order to overcome the difficulties experienced by the Dennis lorry in snow.

The service continues to grow, and at the end of the year, the men were emptying 2,950 bins fortnightly and based on check loads, it is estimated that approximately 3,760 tons of refuse were removed during the year, and the mileage travelled by the vehicles was :-

Dennis Refuse Wagon	10,079 miles.
Bedford " "	9,366 "

The chief difficulty at the present is that in the summer time, at the Hospitals and Boarding Schools, a fortnightly collection is not enough to prevent nuisance occurring with some of the Bins, and it may be necessary in the near future to arrange a more frequent collection from certain establishments.

All the refuse is being deposited on tips at Clifton, Alsop, Doveridge and Parwich and the men take pride in keeping these sites tidy and free from nuisance.

Housing

The number of Council Houses approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government up to the 31st December, 1953 is 267.

The number of houses completed is 257.

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1953 - 3355.

The following summary gives the progress made for the year ending 1953.

Parish	Number of Houses under Contract	Number of Houses in course of erection	Number of Houses completed	Type
Kniveton	6	(4 completed in 1952)	2	Stone faced blocks.
Kniveton	2	-	2	- do -
Yeaveley	6	-	6	Traditional Brick
Cubley	10	10	-	- do -
Totals	24	10	10	

Private Development

Plans for 29 dwellings were approved as private development during the year ending 31st December, 1953.

17 dwellings were completed and 22 were in the course of erection. These include properties approved during the previous year but not completed.

The total number of applications and plans submitted to the Council for approval during the year was 160, of which 155 were approved.

Sanitary Accommodation

Since water mains have been laid to a number of villages there is an ever increasing request for permission to convert closets to water closets. Owing to the unsatisfactory method of sewage disposal in many villages, these requests at the present time are unfortunately having to be discouraged.

Conversions to water closets during 1953 - 5.

Improvement Grants

One application for an Improvement Grant was approved during the year and one dwelling 'improved'.

Milk & Dairies Regulations

Milk (Special Designation) Orders & Regulations

In conformity with the Regulations, dealers and supplementary licences have been issued to persons selling milk within the rural area from premises outside the area.

Twenty samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to the County Bacteriologist.

Milk & Dairies Regulations (Contd)

The following summary gives the results of samples taken :-

No. of Samples	Meth.		Phosphatase		Positive	Negative
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.		
10	5	5	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	1	-	-	-
9(Biological)	-	-	-	-	2	7
20	5	5	1	-	2	7

Inspections and Supervision of Foods.

Forty visits have been made to shops for the inspection of meat and other food during the year.

Following a report by the County Analyst on a consignment of Sardines in tins which were found to contain tin in such quantities as to be prejudicial to health, more than 1,000 tins were examined and 358 tins were condemned and destroyed.

The total amount of food condemned and destroyed during the year was as follows :-

Dried milk	46 lbs.
Potatoes	140 lbs.
Sausages	30 lbs.
Sardines	358 tins 100 lbs. 11 ozs.

Ice Cream

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream under the provisions of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 51.

Two premises have been registered for the sale of wrapped ice cream during the year. The total number of ice cream retailers is 10. Regular visits have been made to all these premises and they have been found to be satisfactory.

Fish & Chip Premises

There is one fish and chip premises in the area. Visits have been made and it is found to be satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses

During the year the number of slaughterhouse licences granted was 7, and the number of licences granted to slaughtermen 39.

Owing to the central slaughtering of animals there are no animals slaughtered in the area except pigs for home consumption and an occasional 'casualty'.

There were also two licences issued for the registration of knacker's yards.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council have the services of a part-time Rodent Operator, and routine inspections were made on all refuse tips and sewage works in the district. A particularly heavy infestation was found on Clifton tip. It has been noticed that during a spell of cold weather the infestation on this tip increases, and during one of these periods treatment was carried out and it was estimated that more than 2,000 rats were killed.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

A number of private properties were inspected and advice given on the best methods to deal with minor infestations. It was found necessary to serve a Statutory Notice under the provisions of the Act for the destruction of rats and the making of buildings rat-proof. The work was carried out in default by the Local Authority and legal proceedings were taken against the owner. The prosecution was successful.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests (Threshing & Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations, 1950.

One successful prosecution was instituted against a threshing contractor and one against a farmer, for non-compliance with the above Regulations during the year.

Infectious Disease

On receipt of notification of infectious disease the premises are inspected and investigations made.

Disinfection is carried out where required.

Factories

Inspections are made for the purpose of provisions as to health under the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	63	36	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Totals	63	36	-	-

There were 45 Outworkers reported as employed within the Council's area during the year 1953.

Bakehouses

There are six bakehouses in this rural area and regular inspections have been carried out.

Rural Housing Survey

181 houses comprising two parishes have been inspected and placed in the following categories :-

Category No.	Brailsford	Yeaveley	Total.
1	4	-	4
2b	17	8	25
3c	61	14	75
4/3c	43	13	56
4/5c	2	2	4
5c	4	2	6
O/T/5a	1	-	1
C/3c	9	-	9
C/2a	1	-	1
			<hr/> 181 <hr/>

The majority of houses placed in category 3c (houses in need of moderate repair and/or in need of certain amenities) are houses without water accommodation; internal dampness caused by the lack of a damp-proof course; no separate food store; no washing accommodation and lack of natural light and ventilation.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. <u>Inspection of Dwelling-houses During the Year</u>	Total
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	238
(b) Total number of Council Houses inspected (not included in (1)(a))	157
(c) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1321
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	
(3)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to in the previous sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	152
(b) Number of Council houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. (not included in (3)(a))	157
2. <u>Remedy of Defects During the Year Without Service of Formal Notice</u>	
(a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence on informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	54
(b) Number of Council Houses rendered fit (not included in (a) above)	205
3. <u>Action under Statutory Powers During the Year</u>	
(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts -	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	Nil
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

Action Under Statutory Powers etc. (Contd)

Total

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 -

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made

Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders

Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV) Overcrowding

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year |) | Figures not |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein |) | |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein |) | available. |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | | 6 |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | | 5 |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases | | 27 |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. | | Nil |

